

SEAFORTH PAC GENERAL MEETING

January 18, 2012

Executive in Attendance: MaryAnn Giardini, Shannon Derksen, Hark Sandhu, Lynne Vidler, Rema Sanghera, Rhylin Bailie, Jen Mezei, Sandra Mankoo, Sophie Cong, Cheryl Tong, Zena Kwan, Siva Ramesh

Regrets: Wendell Hiltz (principal)

Others in Attendance: Meishan, Susan, Rishma, Annie

Meeting started 6:06 pm

PAC BUSINESS - Rhylin Bailie

- Approval of December's executive meeting minutes: Jen Mezei firsts, Sandra Mankoo seconds; minutes approved.
- Spirit Day **APRIL 27TH** – was lacking a speaker co-ordinator but luckily Gail Su came forward to do this. Idea: hold Spirit Day every 2nd year or in a half-day format if there are not enough speakers. Group seemed to favour the idea of doing it every year still. Gail says that spring break is the drop dead date for getting key volunteers and proceeding with the event. Gail thought that having Spirit Day every 2 years, or even as a half-day event, could work. We could alternate Spirit Day with Carnival. Speakers may lose interest if we don't have it every year; on the other hand they may be more inclined to volunteer if they aren't asked year after year.
- Carnival – 1st meeting tomorrow Jan. 19th.
- Technology – we have a committee ready to help review the school's technology needs, waiting for school inventory information.
 - There were 6 wireless hubs installed; there are some minor glitches still with new installations, these are being fixed. Laptop carts are isolated to one classroom, perhaps wireless hubs could be used by new laptops. There is a plan to install 6 more hubs. Question: what is the intended purpose of the wireless hubs? There is a new direction, regarding technology in schools, from the Ministry in a draft education plan: students may be allowed to bring their own devices to school.
 - IDEAS brought forward re: spending surplus: purchase e-readers for library, also the computer lab is very outdated, we could help upgrade these units. We have previously estimated that it would cost about \$2500 per new computer. Unfortunately we have to purchase computers through the district or they won't maintain them (want all the same systems so IT can deal with it better). One option may be to use the computer lab for

primary students to develop keyboarding skills, so the computers don't need to be super high tech, and buy laptops for intermediate kids.

- Playground – no co-ordinator this year.
- Odyssey of the mind challenge: the new challenge teacher Lucy Lotack has purchased a membership to Odyssey of the Mind (OM) - up to 12 teams can enter – if parents are interested in coaching teams, Lucy would help co-ordinate.
- Kindness (anti-bullying) Presentations – The District will give a presentation on this topic. The plan is to host this talk at Seaforth. Focus of presentation is the District response to bullying incidents. Topics to be covered: nuts and bolts of incident response, what can parents do to help child when something has happened, give parents and child tools to deal with incidents, how to monitor the effectiveness of actions taken, is it happening again, focus on child who's been affected. 1 hour long, no payment needed, DPAC will pay for food.
- Academic struggle talk - will occur in April – Wendell is still looking into this.
- Kindness month – whole month of activities is planned. Have an agenda now. Teachers are going to put up a bulletin board (not in front hallway). Two of the teachers – Lapthorne and Jones – putting up board with silhouettes of children working together. Kindness chain to be built here. This bulletin board will be passed many times by kids going to music and gym. The chain will grow throughout the month; Front page of newsletter from school will have intro to kindness month. Jan 30th is the kick-off assembly. Crumpled paper activity, handout the newsletter, wristband (move to other wrist when do act of kindness), 3 tie dye sessions geared to grade, pink shirt created, order forms to be created to ensure don't buy too many t-shirts and materials, hold a contest to create media about kindness. Post paper submissions around school, pink shirt day advertised, take all submissions and turn into CD kids can take home and 2nd newsletter with info about Rachel's challenge to be given out at final assembly. Hope is to have this grow it into an annual activity that taps into the social responsibility mandate of schools/District. Wendell is inviting the District and Burnaby Now possibly.
- Munchalunch Hot Lunch Program (Meishan & Susan)
 - Program is ready to go, Barbara is owner of Munchalunch – she has been contacted
 - The new hot lunch program will be called Munchalunch NOT MyTiffin
 - Munchalunch is also the name of the online ordering program
 - Parents will get a paper info sheet about the program and a menu
 - This program is online ordering only, pay by credit card /Paypal
 - Plan is to offer 7 lunch dates between Feb. to June
 - You order balanced meal not individual items– each meal comes with salad or vegetables, entrée, dessert. There is an option to not have a salad. On any given lunch date, kids will have 3 entrée choices for that day, salad and dessert is set for that day...in the future we could offer choices on dessert, but not right now.
 - Does not include drink. Kids are encouraged to bring own water bottle

- Does it come with utensils? – Kids should bring own, will have some utensils. Put on newsletter about utensils
 - Request for volunteers to help with new program
 - Thursdays is the day of the new program.
 - The idea of a well-balanced meal is the goal. It's very well made food, home-made like. New hot lunch committee members have tasted and like it. The choices aren't that different at first glance but the quality is better.
 - \$7.50 cost, the return to PAC is 2 dollars.
 - We will be purchasing the software to implement this new hot lunch program. We can use software – for other things – can use for other hot lunch programs, for sales of items, t-shirt orders.
 - This website/program will send an email to remind you about the lunch. Reminder about volunteering.
 - Can handle special requests and food allergies
 - Can parents order for all kids at once, in one transaction? Yes.
 - Can change your order online a certain number of days before the date of the lunch.
 - People can join at any time – can jump on. Opting out is an option, you just don't place an order. But for orders already placed, you can't cancel. So order one at a time if unsure.
 - Does program provide paper copy of class list showing orders? Yes.
 - With existing program sometimes there are mix ups, in terms of division numbers and vendors getting orders right. This new program's website has teacher name and division numbers to help avoid confusion and mistake. There is a way to review the orders, after the first round, can fix problems at that time.
 - The program is popular at other schools, online aspect is attractive, reminders, ability to order just 1 lunch at first, don't have to commit to multiple lunches parents will like.
 - Portions larger? It is a pound of food. Order 1 meal, not multiple items – easier...
 - There will be information in newsletter on how far ahead you have to order, system closes after certain date
 - PAC will be putting all hot lunches on a calendar – on Seaforth PAC website or by notice sent home to help parents track these hot lunches.
- Traffic Safety - BCAA training postponed because of snow (they were supposed to come and train Jan. 15), not sure when they're coming back. Still looking for parent volunteers – Tues. and Wed. AM. The kids can't do the traffic duties all alone, parent has to be there. If we don't have parents – kids can't do. Planning an awareness campaign Jan. 23rd to 27th postponed due to snow. Campaign will focus on conveying to drivers what the traffic safety rules are. We will accomplish this by: posting parent volunteers in designated areas to be able to effectively communicate with drivers, placing cones and delineators to indicate no parking areas, signs communicating appropriate traffic safety/traffic flow in school zones, balloons to bring attention to our

efforts. The more parents we have available, the quicker we will be able to effectively communicate with the drivers, which are not only parents but grandparents and care givers, who may not always receive information about the parking and pick up/drop off procedures at Seaforth. Can contact Anne (anne_d@telus.net) to volunteer. The requirement is for 15 minutes in the morning or 15 minutes in the afternoon. Will start up actual program after the awareness week. – 1st week – parent volunteers – cross kids – Donna and Anne will remind – have cones – ask people to move along....bylaw officer can come....putting something in newsletter. Notes to put on windshields, call police, call bylaw officer, BCAA training, Volunteer form going out. Anne gave me a handout. Snow removal policy is on district website.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – Wendell Hiltz (delivered by Rhylin Bailie)

- Will be releasing the donation money (\$12/child) to each classroom soon
- The front row sound systems have been ordered
- Regarding the technology inventory – everyone is focused on the FSAs right now so technology inventory results have been put on hold.
- FSAs will be administered January 16 to February 23. Note that teachers are not administering tests this year, the principal is.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Sophie Cong & Rema Sanghera

- Please refer to PDF file entitled "Treasurer's Report Jan 2012".
- Question: where do funds raised go, to teachers or to school? Answer: both – each teacher gets some, school also gets some lump sums. For instance, at the end of 2010/2011 PAC ear-marked \$1500 for library, \$1500 for sports/fine arts, etc. We give the budget list to school and then they get to spend.
- Question: can parent request funds for certain items for classrooms? For example, could parent request money to buy certain books for immersion classes? Answer: Yes.
- Re: the donation scheme: donating money to entire school versus donating to individual classrooms. There are folks in favour of both schemes. Note: one can donate items and can donate money directly to school, at any time; it doesn't have to be through PAC. The programs such as maple man, young people's concert, carnival – we can subsidize?
- Surplus can be used on activities not just IT. Need to make sure the money goes to activities that benefit ENTIRE school – school-wide activities. Idea for use of future donations: take lump sum from donation total for certain events and then some to each teacher. Future donation forms - can contain specific ideas for what we want to purchase and what the donations will go to.

Meeting adjourned 8:38 pm